

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Creator/Main Entry**

**First Alaska Aerial Survey Photograph Album, c. 1926**

**PCA 577**

Leather album, measures 13.5x10 in.  
52 leaves, contains 101 original photographs  
measuring 8 1/2 x 6 1/2 inches each.

Processed by: Sara Bornstein  
5/2014

**ACQUISITION:** This album was bought from Nat DesMarais Rare Books, in Portland, OR. *Acc. # 2014-023.*

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at the item level. Album placed in archival box.

## BIOGRAPHICAL or HISTORICAL NOTE

The first Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition was conducted between June 6 and September 24, 1926, headed by Lieutenant Ben H. Wyatt of NAS San Diego. The preparations for the expedition were largely made at San Diego, although the staging area was Seattle. The expedition, under command of Lieutenant B. H. Wyatt, was composed of the tender Gannet (AM 41) the barge YF 88 housing a photo lab and mobile base for the expedition, and three Loening amphibians. Two of the airplanes were OL-4s equipped for aerial photography. The third was an OL-2 which served as a standby plane for searching in case one of the photography planes was forced down. It was also the radio plane for the expedition. The work of the expedition, which extended through the summer and into September, was performed in cooperation with the Department of the Interior for early aerial mapping of Alaska. The purpose of the expedition was to survey Southeast Alaska for the Department of the Interior for use with the investigation of resources of that region. During the summer over 15,000 square miles were mapped. While Wyatt was commander in charge of this particular outing. The entire Alaskan Survey (which began in 1926 and was finally completed in 1929) was under the command of Lieutenant Commander A. H. Radford (later Rear Admiral - whose distinguished naval career cumulated in service as Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff).

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

This particular album appears to have been presented to Lt. Ben Wyatt. Midway through the album there is a photograph of a drawing of Wyatt and there is another photograph of Wyatt standing with Alaska Governor Parks. This original photo album details the expedition's incredible photography, truly capturing the pioneer feel. Includes citizens on fishing trips with crew members, always an armed guard present in the event of bears, Glaciers, vast pristine forests, Totem poles, entire crew photos, villages, aircraft mishap, photographers and their gear, aerial photography of early Juneau, Ketchikan, loading the planes in Seattle, and views from the aircraft of other aircraft.

## INVENTORY

*Aerial Photographic Surveys in Southeastern Alaska* by R. H. Sargent and Fred H. Moffit  
[QE75.B9 NO.797-E]

### Album

- 1 [Ship (U.S.S. Gannet?) at (Taku?) glacier surrounded by icebergs.]
- 2 [Aerial view of glaciers, mountains, and waterways.]
- 3 [Aerial view of waterways, mountains, and boats at water edges.]
- 4 [Aerial view of islands and mountains in background.]
- 5 [Aerial view of river of icebergs with glacier in background behind mountains.]
- 6 [Icebergs floating in water, glacier hidden behind mountains in background.]

- 7 [Aerial view of lake among mountains.]
- 8 [Aerial view of lake among mountains.]
- 9 [View of mountains from water.]
- 10 [Aerial view of mountains and tree tops, plane wing at side of image.]
- 11 [Aerial view of mountains and tree tops.]
- 12 [Aerial view of mountains and tree tops.]
- 13 [View of river and mountains.]
- 14 [View of river, mountains, and islands.]
- 15 [Aerial view of river and mountains.]
- 16 [Aerial view of river, mountains, beaches.]
- 17 [Aerial view of mountain-top lakes, river, and snow-capped mountains.]
- 18 [Aerial view of mountain-top lakes.]
- 19 [Aerial view of mountain-top lake.]
- 20 [Aerial view of snow-capped mountains and fjord with plane wing at right side of image.]
- 21 Totems at Alert Bay – B.C. (*Same photo as PCA492-6 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 22 [Two men pose near a totem pole with [cemetery buildings?] behind.]
- 23 [Three figures silhouetted in a small boat, one holds a fishing pole.]
- 24 [Sailors on a beach, on man holds a rifle, a canoe with two figures sits in the water in the background.]
- 25 [Ship U. S. F. S. Ta hn or Tann with passengers.]
- 26 [A group of men and women surround ship's bell, posing with fishing poles and fish.]
- 27 [Group of men on beach with fishing gear and tall boots.]
- 28 [Group of sailors with fishing gear getting on large wooden rowboat.]
- 29 [Group of fishermen pose on the beach.]
- 30 [Men with fishing gear standing on a beach, sailor with rowboat at right of image.]
- 31 Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition [Men in Navy sea and air uniforms pose for a group portrait in front of a U.S. Navy Loening OL plane.]
- 32 [Men in Navy sea and air uniforms pose in front of a building.]
- 33 Alaskan Aerial Survey U. S. Navy Y. F. 88. [Barge with photo lab and mobile base for expedition.]
- 34 U. S. Navy Y. F. 88. [Barge with photo lab and mobile base for expedition.]
- 35 [U.S. Navy Loening OL flying over mountains and glaciers.]
- 36 [U.S. Navy Loening OL flying over [cannery?] and lake with a glacier in the background.]
- 37 [View of trees and clouds.]
- 38 [Portrait of a man in a suit with hat and glasses.]
- 39 [Photograph of Tongass National Forest Alaska Copper River Meridian 1925 map.]

- 40 [Photograph of a portrait painting of a man with a Navy airman's hat.]
- 41 [Group portrait of U. S. Navy Air Mappers.]
- 42 [Group portrait of U. S. Navy Air Mappers.] (*Same photo as PCA492-04 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 43 [Group portrait of U. S. Navy Air Mappers.]
- 44 [U.S. Navy Loening OL]
- 45 [U.S. Navy Loening OL]
- 46 Navy men supervise airplane being loaded into a train cargo truck.]
- 47 [U.S.S. Gannet and U. S. Navy Y. F. 88 Barge tethered together.]
- 48 Rowboat "Cal" and airplane at pier.
- 49 [View of airplane being lowered towards water from ship.]
- 50 [Three Loening OL planes on beach in front of wooden houses.]
- 51 [Aerial view of three survey planes flying just off shore above boats on water.]
- 52 [Aerial survey plane crashed on boat carrying rocks.]
- 53 [Air mappers pose with their cameras.]
- 54 [Aerial survey plane, A-7057, on a beach near a rowboat.]
- 55 [Aerial survey plane, A-7057, on a beach near a rowboat. *Similar to no. 54.*]
- 56 [Navy planes in water beside boat.]
- 57 [Survey plane sits in the water.]
- 58 [Close aerial view of glacier.]
- 59 [Close aerial view of glacier.]
- 60 [Aerial view of Thane. Site of new paper mills. Near Juneau. Formerly Alaska Gastineau Gold Mining Plant.] (*Same photo as PCA492-32 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 61 [Aerial view of icebergs.]
- 62 Juneau – Capitol of Alaska – Pop. 6000 – 1930. Buidiness – Lumber, Cold Storage, Mining. Alaska Juneau Gold mill output – 17,000 Tons. (*Same photo as PCA492-31 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 63 [Aerial view of Juneau.]
- 64 Petersburg – North end of Wrangell Narrows. Pop. 1800. Salmon Cannery and Cold Storage. (*Same photo as PCA492-19 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 65 [Aerial view of Juneau.]
- 66 [Aerial view of coastline and radio towers.]
- 67 [Aerial view of Douglas and Mayflower Island.]
- 68 [Aerial view of mountain tops and valleys.]
- 69 [Aerial view of mountain lake.]
- 70 [Aerial view of glaciers.]
- 71 [Aerial view of glaciers.]
- 72 [Aerial view of fjord.]
- 73 [Aerial view of fjord.]
- 74 [Two airmen holding cameras.]
- 75 [Aerial view of ship going under bridge. People on deck.]

- 76 [Photograph of Navy men supervising crane carrying crate.]
- 77 [Aerial view from survey plane of U.S.S. Gannet and Barge U. S. Navy Y. F. 88.]
- 78 Cameras Used by Air Mappers. (*Same photo as PCA492-05 Alaskan Navy Pilots' Mapping Survey*)
- 79 [Navy men on wooden rowboat with camera.]
- 80 [Aerial view of mountain lakes.]
- 81 [Aerial view of mountains and water.]
- 82 [Aerial view of mountains and water.]
- 83 [Aerial view of valley with water.]
- 84 [Aerial view of trees and water.]
- 85 [View of waterfall.]
- 86 [Aerial view of buildings along coastline.]
- 87 [Aerial view of Ketchikan.]
- 88 [Aerial view of radio towers and unidentified place.]
- 89 [Aerial view of mostly cleared land.]
- 90 [Men view survey barge, U. S. Navy Y. F. 88, being towed by survey ship.] [*Close up of no. 107*]
- 91 [Unidentified city.]
- 92 [Aerial view.]
- 93 [Aerial view of glacier.]
- 94 [Aerial view of glacier.]
- 95 [Aerial view of glacier.]
- 96 [Aerial view of glacier.]
- 97 [Aerial view of glacier.]
- 98 [Totem Poles.]
- 99 Sailor under U.S. flag at end of ship.
- 100 [Aerial view.]
- 101 [Aerial view.]
- 102 [Portrait of man in Navy airman's uniform.]
- 103 [Navy airmen in uniform.]
- 104 Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition [Men in Navy sea and air uniforms pose for a group portrait in front of a U.S. Navy Loening OL plane.] [*Close up of no. 31.*]
- 105 [U.S. Navy Air Mappers pose in front of plane wing.]
- 106 [Image of the barge U. S. Navy Y. F. 88 being towed by survey ship.]
- 107 [Men view survey barge, U. S. Navy Y. F. 88, being towed by survey ship.]
- 108 [Aerial view.]
- 109 [Aerial view.]